A most Humble and Seasonable

PROPOSAL

TO THE

QUEEN,

To raise Money without any Tax,

Sufficient to Rebuild Her Royal Palace of

White-Hall,

IN

Greater Magnificence than ever:

BESIDES

A Yearly Revenue to add to the Just Splendor of Her Majesty's Houshold, by a *Small Farthing* invented and made by the Direction of K. *William*, and approv'd by him, being light and clean as *Silver*, and cannot be counterfeited without Loss and immediate Discovery.

THE

Certainty and Advantages thereof, together with some Matters relating to Her Majesty's Farm of TIN, are herein set in a True Light, by a Dialogue between a *Merchant*, a *Pewterer*, an *Engineer*, a *Shopkeeper*, a *Market-Woman*, and a *Beggar*.

Quicunque ædificat Deo, illi ædificabit Deus.

To be sold by the Booksellers; and by *L. Beardwell*, next the *Red Cross*, in *Black-Friars*. Price 2 *d.*

A moſt Humble and Seaſonable

PROPOSAL

To the QUEEN.

Engineer, SIR, I ſee you deal in many Things; do you ſell Tobacco?

Shopkeeper, Yes, Sir, we here muſt deal in every thing neceſſary, and all little enough; pray taſte of this Virginia.

Engin. I obſerve you have a Chamber to Lett, I want one.

Shopk. Mine is Two pair of Stairs, a pretty lightſome Room, and ready-furniſh'd; you may ſee it, if you pleaſe; but you muſt excuſe me if I ask you, What Trade you are? and, From whence you came? Becauſe, we are a little ſhy of Strangers.

Engin. I am a Traveller, and by Profeſſion an Engineer in Metals; I was Apprentice, when young, to a Watch-maker in *Leverpool*, but have left that Employ for many Years, and have ſeen and work'd in the Mints of *Holland* and *France*, and in Coining the Money for King *James* in *Ireland*, and have ſince been in *France* and *Ireland* again, and came over to *Leverpool*, from whence I now came, and hope for ſome Employment now in the Tower, and am well known by ſome there; or, I would teach Gaging.

Shopk. I had once a Son that was employ'd in making very fine Tin Farthings for King *James*, at *Somers-Key*; but they prov'd too heavy, and were cry'd down for Popiſh Farthings, becauſe of the pretended Prince of *Wales*.

Engin. I remember that I made the Edging-Tools and Cutters for thoſe Farthings, to prevent their being caſt or counterfeited; and they were deſign'd to paſs throughout all *Europe*. And afterward the Manager of that Mint, by the Advice of King *William*, contriv'd Engins to make a

ſmall Farthing for the ſame purpoſe, which could never be counterfeited by any one without Loſs, and the King was ſatisfy'd thereof, and highly approv'd 'em, and referr'd 'em to the Officers of the Mint, who at firſt underſtood them not, and gave no Report, till a Patent was obtain'd by ſome great Man for a bigger Sort, which were baſely made, and ſoon counterfeited.

Shopk. And ſo have been even the Copper Halfpence, and all that ever have been made ſince.

Engin. I plainly ſaw the ſame at *Leverpool*, and other Parts of *Lancaſhire*, as I came up; there are ſuch a Number of foul-caſt Copper Half pence, that in 40 *s.* you muſt take 20 *s.* in thoſe Halfpence, or elſe you can receive no Money.

Shopk. Then, when we have Peace, and the Sea is open, we ſhall be peſter'd with 'em as formerly; for tho' the laſt Patentees were enjoyn'd to change all the former Farthings, yet I carry'd and ſent mine till I was tiered, and at laſt was forced to ſell 'em (I believe to one of their Agents, one *Redhead*), by which I loſt near Three Parts in Four of my juſt Due.

Engin. Yes, and I believe, if the Queen take not effectual Care to change 'em, there will be above Two Parts in Three Loſs by all the Counterfeit Copper Halfpence, all which are caſt, and then turn'd ſmooth with Sand in a Cask for that purpoſe.

Shopk. And the worſe it will be, that this heavy Loſs will fall upon the Poor, who are leaſt able to bear it; But when your Pipe is out, you ſhall, if you pleaſe, ſee the Chamber, as ſoon as ever I have done with this Market-Woman.

Market-woman, I want ſome Sugar, Soap, Thread, Pins, and Hops, and ſome Treacle.

Shopk. You ſhall have 'em preſently, Miſtris.

Market-w. But you muſt take Farthings, for I have no Silver; and if I ride Home with theſe Farthings about me, they are ſo heavy that they tear out my Pockets, and cumber me ſadly.

Engin. Will you take all Farthings for your Goods?

Shopk. Yes, we muſt do it ſometimes, or have no Trade; tho' no Merchants will take 'em of me, yet I can get 'em off well enough.

Engin.

Engin. Good Woman, pray let me ſee your Farthings, will you?

Market w. Yes, Sir, and you may count 'em over too, if you pleaſe.

Engin. Theſe are all Halfpence, and I ſee moſt of 'em are not right.

Shopk. I am of your opinion, that all theſe dull naſty thick ones are Counterfeits; but, alas, they cannot diſtinguiſh them, nor we muſt not; it's not worth our Trouble, ſo long as we can get 'em off; but, I fear that will not be long; the Farthings, indeed, ſtand good, becauſe they cannot ſo eaſily be caſt; but very few of thoſe are now to be ſeen. If no Halfpence had ever been made, it had been as well, and better, and we much ſafer from Loſs by 'em.

Engin. The ſmall Farthings, I mention'd, made for King *William*, if the Inventor be not dead, or his Engin and Methods loſt, would do the Buſineſs effectually for all the Queen's Dominions, without Danger, to my knowledg, of ever being counterfeited for Farthings; and I believe they might be made more ſecure and profitable to the Queen, and commodious for the People, than ever yet any were.

Shopk. I have ſeen and obſerv'd the Loſſes by Farthings as much as any Man; and, I muſt confeſs, I never ſaw any Halfpence but have been groſly counterfeited; but we'll go up, and, if you like the Chamber, we can talk of this more another time.

Engin. I ſhall take it but from Week to Week; and I deſire you to go along with me to the Tower, and you ſhall be ſatisfy'd of me.

Shopk. Sir, I queſtion it not: but to ſatisfy my Wife, I will go with you; I will call down my Daughter into the Shop, but muſt be back preſently, becauſe I am to pay a Man ſome Money.

Engin. As ſoon as you pleaſe, that my Lodging may be made ready; for I ſhall ſtay a while after you in the Tower, but be with you before Eight; for I uſually keep good Hours.

Shopk. Welcome, Sir, there's a Fire in your Chamber to air it, and your Bed is ready; and, if any thing be wanting, I pray call for it.

Engin. I thank you, and I ſhall deſire your Company, to take a Dram with you before I go to Bed; I will ſtay for you till you can come; and if you have any good Nantz, bring me half a Pint with you.

Shopk. I have brought you the beſt I have, which I think is right, it coſt me 12 *s. per* Gallon.

Engin. Nay, pray ſit down and drink to me, you ſhall be my Taſter. I have, after you went, been enquiring in the Tower, and have found out ſome Track to be informed about thoſe little Farthings, and I muſt intreat you at your leiſure, to enquire and bring me into the Company of a certain Merchant that they ſay can fully inform me?

Shopk. I ſhall willingly do what I can; But how do you know that there are any ſuch ever made, but that another as good an Artiſt, when he ſees them before him can make the like.

Engin. I am confirm'd in that Opinion; becauſe I my ſelf have often Attempted, and could never make ſo much as one Blank of them to come tollerably near the Likeneſs, nor could any Artiſt that I ever yet met with in all my Travails. I carried a few of them out of *England* with me, (and this is one of them) and if I could have found any Engineer or Artificer in *France*, that would have undertaken to have made but the Blanks, the King of *France* would ſafely have made, by his Impreſſion, a *Solz*, of every one of them, ſixty of which make a Crown; and no ſmall Coins that he hath would have been to compare with them, for Conveniency, Safety and Profit to himſelf, as I believe.

Shopk. To me the Metal ſeems fine and clean, like Silver; nor ſhould I much object againſt the Smallneſs of them; for, if we muſt have them either too heavy or too light, then the lighter the more convenient, if they are ſafe from being counterfeited; but for what I ſee, another Artiſt may make the like; but this is my firſt ſight of them.

Engin. If they were made by any Rules of Art, I ſhould be of your mind, but they are contrived contrary to all Rules of Art, and that in ſo many Particulars, that no Artiſt can come near it.

Shopk. But are they of your Opinion, in the Tower?

Engin. Yes, I am ſure they formerly were, and I know if they try now, they muſt be ſo ſtill. There's no other Coin but I can make a perfect Blank of it preſently, abateing the Impreſſion; but of theſe I cannot.

Shopk. Then I will tell you that if I were concern'd, I would place ſome of the Pieces in ſome Publick Shop where are Tools ready, and Challenge all the Town, and give 5 *s.* to any Perſon for every ſuch Blank as they ſhould make, in Sight of the Maſter of the Shop; and let the Money be ready

there

there to pay 'em; I think Mr. *Bayly*'s Shop, at the Corner of *Scotch-Yard* in *Bush-lane*, is a fit Place.

Engin. I agree with you, by which the reason of my Judgment will more clearly appear; and if I meet with that Merchant, I will either prevail with him to do as you say; or else I will to morrow do it my self, and I will leave the Money with him, and desire him (as from you) to take a due care of the whole matter; and there, after tomorrow, any Persons may see it if they please.

Shop. Mr. *Bayly* himself is a very ingenious Workman, and wants not Tools. I see you are very intent upon this Matter; I will now bid you good Night; tomorrow I am to go to the *Exchange*, and will enquire to find that Merchant, if I can, and acquaint you at my return.

Engin. How do you do, Mrs. I am glad to see you so constantly employ'd; I perceive your Husband is not yet come back from the *Exchange*; I'll make bold to sit down and stay a little for him.

Begg. Pray Master give one Farthing to a poor old Man.

Engin. Friend, here's what you ask of me; but why do you beg here, but rather go to the other end of the Town, and beg of those that are rich and of Quality, they could not refuse to be more liberal, then they are here

Begg. Alas Sir, its only a Farthing or a Half-penny that we ask or can hope for from any one Person; and they of Quality regard us not, but scorn to carry such Luggage in their Pockets; this poor old Woman can tell you the same; and that the Courseness of the Copper-Half-pence gives them an Excuse from regarding the Poor.

Engin. But suppose the Queen should cause small Farthings as fine as Silver, to be coined; do you think they would then carry those?

Begg. O God bless Her Majesty, I think they would, and she could not do a greater Charity to the Poor, and all small Dealers, for then every body would carry more plenty of them in their Pockets.

Engin. Welcome home Landlord, I waited for you, I have been talking with those two Beggers, and I'll tell you another time what Oppinion they confirm me in.

Shopk. I have met with the Merchant whose Prother contrived those small Farthings, by the advice of K. *Wm.* I described you and your Profession to him, and he will meet us this Evening at Five-a-Clock, and give you a Bottle of Wine; he seems desirous to talk with you.

Engin.

Engin. I thank you, Sir, heartily, I entreat your Company, and I will be ready to wait on you peesently, for its now past Four, and I pray let us have as much Discourse together as we can.

Merch. Come Sir, you see I am here before you, tho' you are very punctuall. My Friend here with me is a Pewterer and he and I have been weighing of some Tinn, which we have bought at the Tower of the Queen. Sir, I understand by your Friend that you are a Traveller, and an Artist, I was very willing to meet you, and present you with a Bottle of Wine to welcome you to *London.*

Engin. Sir, I humbly thank you and my Friend here, for the Honour and Favour of your Company: I understand by what you have been a doing, that her Majesty still continues the Farm of the Tinn, that was farmed by Merchants, but was all broke off before I went out of *England*; and I heard in *France*, when Tinn was very deare, that the Queen had taken it into her own Hands; it is certainly a most Noble and Improvable Commodity.

Merch. It is so, but I believe considering; all Things, the Queen is hitherto a Looser by it, rather than any great gainer.

Pewtr. It's a great pity, that both the Queen should loose, and our Trade be ruin'd by it too, as both my self and all the Pewterers can witness, I mean, in comparison to what it was before the Farm, but there will fall a heavy Load at last, by so great a Stock on hand.

Engin. I hear the Tinn is sent in great parcels to *Holland* and other Foreign Parts you know not but the Queen may have great Gain by that.

Pewtr. I know not that, but I have heard otherwise, and that by—That our Merchants loose more than the Queen gains.

Merch. Come, Gent. This is all for want of a right Management, by which, at present, for all the War, her Majesty's Bags might be fill'd, her Subjects encourag'd and employ'd, and the Weight of a dead Stock removed as much as it was for so many Year together, when all the Coinages were bought up by Merchants and Pewterers before they could be delivered.

Engin. I Pray, Sir, if I may be so bold, had not you a Brother who contrived a small Farthing for K. *William*, after K. *James*'s Farthing went down?

Merch.

Merch. Yes, Sir, it coſt my Brother ſome Hundreds of Pounds to contrive, according to the deſire of K. *William*, ſuch a ſmall Farthing of refin'd Tinn, to the higheſt pitch, as might not be counterfeited; and after ſome Time, he invented and made Four Engines, which altogether, being work'd one after another, did make and perfect the Blanks for ſuch Farthings with admirable Certainty and Succeſs, which being approved by the King, ſome of them were Impreſs'd with K. *William* and Q. *Mary*; but they were never made publick, becauſe a great Favourite had, in the Interim, prevailed with the King, and obtain'd a Patent to make other Farthings wihch were bigger, but were eaſily Counterfeited, by which many People were abuſed, and my Brother receiv'd ſuch Loſs and Diſappointment, that I think it broke his Heart, for he left *England*, and dyed ſoon after.

Engin. Sir, I am much concerned for what you tell us; I verily believe there was not a better Artiſt, or a more ingenious Man for Drawing, Graveing, or Moulding in all *Europe*; for I knew him very well, and he was employ'd by King *James* to compoſe ſome Medals which were ſent to *France*, and alſo the fine large Farthings for King *James*, which were deſigned to paſs as *Spaniſh* Money doth throughout *Europe* and *Aſia*. I made ſome Edging-Tools for him, and by his Direction for thoſe Farthings, to prevent their being ever counterfeited by Caſting.

Pewtr. I remember thoſe Farthings were ſome of them made at *Somer's*-Key, to be ſhip'd off, and were the fineſt coined that I ever ſaw; and before they came out to be publick, ſome of them were privately ſold by the Workmen, for 2*s.* 18*d.* and 12*d.* a peice, they were ſo very fine ſtamp'd.

Merch. Yes, and I being his Executor, have the fineſt Dyes, of his cutting, that ever were ſeen in *England*, as I am told by thoſe that know.

Engin. I verily believe it, Sir, and I hope you will favour me with a ſight of them; I was one that helpt to remove for him, ſome of the Preſſes out of the Tower, by the King's Order, and fix them at *Somer's*-Key.

Shopk. But if that Perſon was ſo great an Artiſt, methinks it doth not appear in that ſmall Farthing which you ſhew'd me.

Engin. No, Sir, if it were made by the exact Rules of Art, it might be imitated by ſome other Artiſt, but that

Artiſt

Artiſt, by a ſuperior Art, having avoided in it all Rules of Art, the Peices appear plain and natural, as Leaves of or upon the ſame Tree, which are known by the very Shape and Countenance, which none but the ſame Maker can imitate.

Merch. The King told my Brother, that if he made the Pieces perfect round, or fixed the Star juſt in the Center or Middle, they would be counterfeited; or if not very ſmall, they would be caſt, as all the other had been. The King approved of the Size.

Pewtr. Pray, Sir, let me ſee one of thoſe ſmall Farthings.

Engin. Here's one of thoſe I carry'd out of *England* with me, and carried about in my Pocket about 20 Years.

Pewtr. Small, indeed; but the Metal ſeems extraordinary fine, and wears as well as Silver; but wherein lies the Difficulty of being Counterfeited, as all others have been, eſpecially the Half-pence?

Engin. The Difficulty doth not appear at firſt Sight, but will be ſoon found by any one that goes about to do it; and this I know and have often ſeen in ſome that have try'd, who have been confident, and indeed, the moſt likely to do it; and yet, after ſeveral Attempts, were aſhamed to compare with it, what with much Time and Labour they had made; becauſe the Difference appeared not only ſo very great in the Whole, but in ſo many Particulars, *viz.* in the Size the Shape, the Edges, the Star it ſelf, and in the fixing and faſtening of it, and after all, in the Weight, which was near double.

Pewt. I confeſs, this is very ſtrange; but tho' I now more ſtrictly obſerve thoſe Particulars you ſpeak of, yet I could not have believed it at firſt ſight.

Shopk. But although it cannot be ſo exactly counterfeited, yet may not ſmall Peices of inferior Tinn be made and ſtamped ſo like it, that unwary People may take them to their Loſs.

Pewtr. There are but few that will take the ſmalleſt Money, but will look at it whether it be good, elſe they deſerve to bear the Loſs of it, becauſe they are ſo careleſs, that they heed not what they take; nor can know of whom they take it. But do you think People can ſee a Difference, if they are careful and do obſerve.

Shopk. I have known ſome careleſs People take plain Braſs for Silver, and often times only round Peices of Tinn or Copper unſtampt for Halfpence; but it doth not follow, but that generally all People are more careful. *Engin.*

Engin. As to the Fineneſs of the Metal, every one cannot diſcern; but as to the Make, Shape, and the very Countenance of theſe ſmall Farthings, when they come to be uſed, I am perſwaded that one of them may be as eaſily diſtinguiſhed among 100 of the neareſt Counterfeits that ever can be made, as the Face of one Man whom you well know, amongſt 100 Faces that you know not. And this I am morally certain will be apparent to all in general, when ever they come to uſe and compare them.

Pewtr. If that be ſo as you affirm, (and you are beſt able to judge) then I ſee not, but theſe Farthings might be much ſafer than any that have been yet made either of Tinn or Copper; all of which, and eſpecally the Halfpence have been egregiouſly counterfeited, caſt, and adulterated, as is viſible in the preſent Copper Halfpence; and yet I believe the ſmall ones will be as convenient and acceptable to the People, and, eſpecially, to the better ſort than any of the others were.

Shopk. I will, by what I now ſee, hear, and believe, admit, that the Art in contriving and making them, may fully anſwer for what they fall ſhort of the uſual Value of Farthings; but I think the Smallneſs of them being no bigger than a Silver Penny, and eſpecially, after ſuch heavy Farthings, will make a great Objection from ſome People.

Merch. Nothing can be deviſed that will pleaſe all People, and eſpecially, till they are accuſtom'd to it, and find the Convenience of it. Theſe are as clean as Silver, and you ſee keep as well their Colour, after they have been made above 20 Years. King *William* was very well ſatisfied of the Goodneſs and Safety of the Project, after he had ſeen and try'd the Ability of my Brother in ſuch Matters, and after he had had the ſame atteſted by at leaſt 20 of the chief Artificers of *London*, who went with him before the King and Council, and moſt of them ſign'd a Paper, containing the Reaſons of their Opinions which Paper, and alſo a Certificate of the Approbation of divers, then eminent and knowing Citizens, both which original Papers are ſtill extant, and ready to be ſhewn.

Engin. Now you put me in mind of it, I was one of thoſe that then went up with your Brother before the King and Council at *White-Hall*, and I ſet my hand, among others, to the Paper you mention.

Merch.

Merch. Sir, I am very glad you remember it, and have ſo much thought of it, and try'd it ſince; for what was then the ſame, is now, tho' it has lain dormant ſo many Years; yet I have the Engins that made them; but tho' the King was perſuaded by a great Favourite, who had another Deſign, not to admit them, by reaſon they were ſmall; yet they were ſo acceptable, that my Brother ſold moſt of what were made, at the Rate of Farthings, and ſome that were ſent to St. *Chriſtophers*, paſt there for Quarter Royals for ſome Years, till the *French* took it, as I was credibly inform'd, by a Merchant that ſent them thither.

Engin. Sir, I my ſelf well know the greateſt Part of what you ſay is true; and I have ſufficient Reaſon to believe the reſt, and it is therefore my Opinion, that if any Prince in Chriſtendom had the ſame Blanks, he might ſafely and reaſonably, by ſetting his Impreſſion upon them, value them as Silver, or as a Penny Sterling.

Shopk. Thoſe Farthings might, in my Opinion, anſwer both the Occaſion of Farthings and Halfpence; for the Half pence are always more ſubject to be counterfeited, and ever will be, and two Farthings are as good as a Halfpenny at any time.

Pewt. But ſome People will be unwilling to take ſmall Farthings, becauſe they are more ſubject to looſe them.

Merch. There may be ſmall Finger-Purſes made of Leather, or Rich Silk-Patches, with a Button at the top, which will hold 5 or 10 *s.* in Farthings, without trouble or danger of looſing them; but if they looſe one, it's but a Farthing, a very eaſy Puniſhment for the want of more Care.

Shopk. Its pity any ſmall Objections ſhould hinder the going on of ſo very Ingenious a Deſign; and now it ſeems to be not an unſeaſonable time to endeavour to promote it.

Engin. And I think, if I were concern'd as you are, I could offer ſuch a Propoſal, as for the Publick Good, and for a great and laſting Profit to the Crown, which ſhould exceed all former Propoſals that ever were offer'd on that Occaſion.

Merch. To be plain with you, it is my Intention ſo to do; and I am much more confirm'd and incourag'd in it, by the Diſcourſe which we have all had; but it is now late, and I ſhall be very glad of all your Company here again to morrow Night, at the ſame Time and Place; and if you, who are a Stranger, will call and dine with me, your

Friend

Friend can tell you where I dwell, and I ſhall be glad to ſee you. In the mean time, Gentlemen, all is paid, and I thank you for your good Company.

Merch. Gentlemen, I hope you will excuſe me, that I made you ſtay; for ſome unexpected Buſineſs detain'd me Half an Hour. Pray, have you thought of any other Objections, beſides what we have already diſcours'd about?

Pewt. No, I hear of none more, but rather of ſeveral Arguments for the Uſe of them at this time.

Merch. I know there are many Arguments for it, and I hope, thoſe Her Majeſty and Council will conſider, when before them, Farthings (as the Lawyers ſay) are but *Famulus Nummi*; and it is the Queen's Prerogative to permit or hinder to paſs, what kind of them She pleaſeth, throughout all Her Dominions; but I heard, that generally all Liberties granted by Letters-Patents from the Crown, to make Farthings and Halfpence, have hitherto been abuſed, and the Gain they have got is unknown. But theſe Farthings being more ſafe and comodious for the Subject, and more profitable to the Crown than have hitherto been; were there any danger of being counterfeited, either at Home or from Abroad, they may, by the Authority of the Crown, be made ſecure and perpetual by ſuch Notice, as might be publiſh'd, to puniſh all Attempts, and reward the Diſcovery; therefore, my humble Propoſal ſhall be, only to make for the Queen, what Her Occaſions ſhall require, on ſuch reaſonable Terms, as may comfortably ſupport me and my Family, and to deliver none but to whomſoever Her Majeſty doth appoint.

Engin. I preſume you can have more Engins made, in exact Conformity, to that one ſet which your Brother left you.

Merch. I expect ſo, becauſe I have ſhew'd to Four ſeveral Workmen, each of them one of theſe Four Engins, and each of them will undertake to make another by it exactly the ſame; or elſe I could not propoſe to make ſo many, as may be requir'd for a publick Farthing.

Engin. I ſee you take the right way for Privacy; and I ſuppoſe you will do the ſame in Working; ſo that every Workman ſhall only know his part of the Work; but the telling them from one to another, will be very tedious.

Merch. But we have a Remedy for that; for all the Pieces are of equal Weight, and we can weigh them as exact as Coins of Gold or Silver.

Pewt.

Pewt. But what do you think may the Queen gain by this Project, if ſhe pleaſes to accept your Propoſal?

Merch. Sure I am, That the Advantages to the Crown will be beyond all Expectation; but this I dare preſume to ſay, That Perſons of all Degrees will be furniſhed with Farthings, light and clean as Silver; and Her Majeſty will be enabled to change the preſent Farthings, without Loſs. That they may cauſe every Year the Conſumption of as much of Her Majeſty's Tin, as Pins do of Braſs-Wyer, which is very conſiderable; beſides, it may probably be a Yearly Revenue, ſufficient, if Her Majeſty pleaſes, to rebuild *White-Hall*, and to make it the fineſt Palace in *Europe*; and after all, make a conſiderable Yearly Addition towards the juſt Splendor of Her Majeſty's Houſhold.

Shopk. Theſe are very great Things indeed, eſpecially to be produc'd, by Things ſo ſmall, when larger have produc'd but little.

Merch. The Smallneſs, when uſed, will be found no Greivance; and yet, that is it, which will occaſion ſo many Advantages; all which I am able, particulary to make out, and ſhall do it in my Propoſals, for Perſons will generally carry as many Shillings of the light as Pence of the heavy.

Engin. Sir, I moſt heartily wiſh you good Succeſs, and I doubt not of your Favour to me, and I ſhall be ever ready to do you all the Service that I am able, and that you ſhall always find.

Pewt. I was, this Morning, in Company with ſome that I account ingenious Men, and I ſhew'd them that Farthing you lent me, and we diſcourſed about the Matter, and I found they had no Objection; but that many of 'em would be loſt; tho' one of them ſaid, the *Aſpers*, much uſed in *Turkey*, are far leſs.

Merch. I confeſs, that that of looſing 'em, is the chief Objection; but to anſwer for that, I will ſuppoſe all the Queen's Subjects to be about Eight Millions, and if each of 'em, one with another, ſhould happen to looſe One Farthing in every Week, it would never hurt the meaneſt of them; And yet, that ſmall part would produce to the Queen above 40000 *l. per Ann.* clear Profit, beſides the conſtant Conſumption of Her Majeſty's Tin; by which may be ſuppos'd, how great Her whole Advantage would be, by all that will be uſed.

Pewt.

Pewt. I am perſuaded it would prove far beyond Expectation; and tho' I expect no Gain by it, yet the more I think of it, the better I like it for a general Good.

Engin. And ſo will all judicious Men that wiſh for and endeavour to promote the Good of *Great Britain.*

Pewt. Sir, I doubt not but you are one of thoſe; and you may remember, when, at our laſt Meeting, I was complaining of the Hardſhip I and the reſt of my Brethren the Pewterers were under, by reaſon of the Tin-Farm; you then ſeem'd to know how it might be remedy'd; and therefore, I deſire you to let me know how that might be done.

Merch. I will freely give you my Opinion about it, with Submiſſion to better Judgments than my own. Our Tin is accounted the moſt antient and noble Commodity of *England*; and the Government of it by the Stanory-Laws, and the Coynage, Duty, and Preemption, belonging to the Crown; it is thereby adapted to be a Royal Commodity, and to be taken into the Hands of the Queen, at a ſtipulated Price, with the Lord-Warden, Convocation, and Parliament, of Tinners, if She pleaſe. And this Her Majeſty moſt graciouſly did now in time of War, for the Encouragement of Her good Subjects, the Tinners, and to keep up the Price in the time of War, &c. Now, in my humble Oppion, ſhould the Queen appoint Her Comiſſioners to give publick Notice, That after ſuch a Day, no Tin ſhould ſold till

And then only by the Candle, every 6 Months about 800 Tons, or by 6 Pieces in a Lott, as they riſe, and put it up at 4 *l. per.* C. and allow a Diſcount, and prompt Payment of Six and Half *per Cent.* as the *Eaſt-India* Company doth, and I believe there would not want Buyers, and raiſe the preſent Price above the Diſcount at the firſt Sale, and in a few Sales after, to clear the Queen's Hands. But this will require ſome previous and ſuitable Declaration, for Encouragement of the Buyers, as will occur to the Prundence of the Comiſſioners, with regard to *London* and other Places where the Tin is.

Pewt. Sir, I am very glad, and I thank you, that you have ſo freely diſcover'd your Thoughts on this Subject; and I hope ſuch a Method, as it is eaſy, ſo it will both pleaſe Her Majeſty, and the Merchants, and us alſo.

Merch. You may conſider well, and conſult about it; and if it be approv'd by the Pewterers, your Petition may

bring

bring about any Thing in your Favour, that's not againſt the Intereſt of Her Majeſty; who you ſee is not deſirous to raiſe Her Tin upon you; and by this Method it may riſe and fall; and ſo beget you a better Trade, more than by ſtanding always at one Price, and yet run no higher than it will naturally yield; and the *Dutch* will have therefore, no Encouragement to import *Eaſt-India* Tin into *Holland*; and Men that have Money will buy for ſake of the Diſcount, and ſupply the Workers that want upon Credit, which will certainly increaſe the Conſumption of Tin. There is no Queſtion, but when the Methods are made known, in which Her Majeſty's Tin is only to be ſold, great Commiſſions for ſuch a Commodity, will come from abroad; and it will lie in Her Majeſty's Power to encourage the Buyers, by putting it up at the following Sale 2 *s. per C.* higher, which will ſecure the firſt Buyers, 6 Months Intereſt for their Money; And thus the ſeveral Hands that buy it, will find out Ways of Conſumption, much more than of late.

As to the preſent Farthings and Halfpence, they may all be exchanged by ſuch Methods as will not be inconvenient to any; but rather exceptable to all.

Pewter. I hear of ſome that are endeavouring now to get a Patent, who ſay, That theſe can be counterfeited; for my part, I will not believe it till I can ſee it done; I know that nothing can be propos'd ſo advantageous to the Crown, and I think more ſafe.

Merch. And every one that helps forward this Work, helps forward a Work which will be moſt acceptable: for If there be any that do not love and honour our Moſt Excellent Queen, they muſt, at the ſame time, renounce their Eſteem to all that's good and worthy; and he that deſireth not the Glory of *Great-Britain*, ought not to partake of the Bleſſings of it; and in what can all this be expreſs'd more than (whilſt ſhe is acquiring Peace) by Rebuilding Her Royal Palace of *White-Hall*, which, as it hath the beſt Situation for Government, ſo, by this ſingle Revenue, it may be made the fineſt Proſpect, and a Houſe for the Reception of the greateſt Prince that ever ſway'd the Britiſh Sceptre.

FINIS.